

What is claimed is:

SUB A57

1. A method, comprising:

storing encrypted information associated with a computer program;

obtaining personal information as part of a startup sequence for said computer program; and

reading said encrypted information, decrypting information contained therein to obtain decrypted information, and comparing said personal information with said decrypted information; and allowing said computer program to run normally only if said personal information agrees with said decrypted information in a specified way.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said personal information is biometric information, and said comparing comprises comparing said biometric information with other biometric information in said encrypted information

3. A method as in claim 2, further comprising installing said computer program by entering a biometric code, sending said biometric code to a server, encrypting said biometric code at

4 said server and returning an encrypted sequence to said software  
5 as said encrypted information.

1 4. A method as in claim 3, wherein said encrypting uses a  
2 private key at said server, and said decrypting verifies a  
3 signature of said private key.

1 5. A method as in claim 3, wherein said encrypting uses a  
2 private key at said server, and said decrypting uses a public  
3 key included as a part of said computer program.

1 6. A method as in claim 1, further comprising determining  
2 if a biometric reader is attached to a port, and wherein said  
3 program is only allowed to run if said biometric reader is  
4 attached to said port.

1 7. A method as in claim 1, further comprising allowing the  
2 software to run in a limited exception mode without establishing  
3 that said personal information agrees with said decrypted  
4 information.

1 8. A method, comprising:  
2 requesting a computer system to install a specified  
3 computer program;

4 determining whether said computer program is verified for  
5 installation;

6 obtaining a reference biometric information from the  
7 authorized user; and

8 thereafter allowing said program to run normally only when  
9 biometric information is obtained which matches said reference  
10 biometric information.

1 9. A method as in claim 8 wherein said determining  
2 comprises determining if the specified license has already been  
3 used for another installation.

1 10. A method as in claim 8 wherein said determining uses a  
2 specified unique code that was distributed with the program, and  
3 determines from a server whether said unique code has already  
4 been used for an installation.

1 11. A method as in claim 8, further comprising, after  
2 determining that said installation is authorized, sending said  
3 reference biometric information to a server.

1 12. A method as in claim 11, further comprising, at the  
2 server, encrypting said reference biometric information, and

3 returning encrypted biometric reference information which is  
4 stored with said program, and which is used by said allowing.

1 13. A method as in claim 8, wherein said allowing  
2 retrieves encrypted biometric information, decrypts said  
3 biometric information, and allows said program to run normally  
4 only if said decrypted biometric information matches a currently  
5 entered biometric information.

1 14. A method as in claim 12, wherein said reference  
2 biometric information is encrypted at said server using a  
3 private key of a public key-private key pair, and said reference  
4 biometric information is decrypted when software is to be run,  
5 using said public key corresponding to said private key.

1 15. A system, comprising:  
2 in a computer, run an operating system, which includes an  
3 ability to run an associated program;  
4 at least one port, associated with said computer, said port  
5 capable of receiving at least one vertebral device thereon; and  
6 a user interface, associated with said computer, receiving  
7 a command to run a specified program, and operating to decrypt  
8 reference biometric information associated with said specified  
9 program, compare currently-obtained biometric information with

004712358-11400

10 said reference biometric information, and allows said program to  
 11 run in a specified way only when said currently-obtained  
 12 biometric information matches said reference biometric  
 13 information.

1 16. A system as in claim 15, wherein said operating system  
 2 operates to first detect whether a biometric reading device is  
 3 attached to said port, and then detect whether biometric  
 4 information has been received from said biometric reading  
 5 device, said program being allowed to run in said specified way  
 6 only when both said biometric reading device is attached, and  
 7 biometric information which is received matches said reference  
 8 biometric information.

1 17. A system as in claim 15, wherein said operating system  
 2 decrypts said reference biometric information.

1 18. A system as in claim 17, wherein said operating system  
 2 determines a time and current biometric information is obtained,  
 3 and compares said time with the current time, and allows said  
 4 program to run in in said specified way only when said time is  
 5 within a specified interval of said current time.

09712358 11400

1 19. A computer readable media, containing instructions  
2 causing the computer to:  
3 detect a request to run a specified program;  
4 obtain current biometric information;  
5 decrypt an encrypted reference information including  
6 reference biometric information therein, and obtaining reference  
7 biometric information therefrom;  
8 compares said reference biometric information with said  
9 current biometric information; and  
10 allow said specified program to run into specified way only  
11 when said reference biometric information matches said current  
12 biometric information.

1 20. Instructions as in claim 19, wherein said compares  
2 also compares a time and current biometric information was  
3 obtained with a current time, and allows said specified program  
4 to run in the specified way only man said time is within a  
5 specified interval of said current time.

1 21. Instructions as in claim 19, wherein the specified way  
2 is an unrestricted run which does not detect a number of other  
3 executions or operations of said program.